

Employee's kindness brightens nursing home during holidays

Debbie Martin
unselfishly devoted a few hours of her spare time to a lonely nursing home resident, making the Christmas holiday brighter for all involved.



Debbie Martin, KE vendor audit wanted to do something special for someone during the Christmas holiday, so she wrote a letter to the Cambridge East Nursing Center and asked if there was someone there who had no family and would be alone during the holidays.

Martin's mother used to work at the center, which made her aware of the great need for companionship there, especially during the holidays.

The nursing home called Martin and

told her of a woman who had no family in the area. She does have a son in North Dakota whom she seldom sees.

After doing some shopping and picking out a pretty figurine, Martin went over to the nursing home, gift in hand and spirits high in hopes of cheering someone and making the holiday a little brighter.

"The woman in charge at the home hadn't told my friend that I was coming to see her, so she was pretty surprised," Martin says. "Then when I got there she

said that she was hungry. I asked her what she would like to eat and she said Arthur Treachers fish and chips. So I brought her some dinner."

Martin says that between the food and the fact that the woman spoke broken English, she was not able to do much talking with her. But the woman enjoyed the visit so much that she asked Martin to keep in touch with her and come back to visit, which Martin intends to do.

Parade volunteers needed all year

Help keep the Thanksgiving Day Parade alive by volunteering your services throughout the year. You won't be donning costumes and strutting up and down Woodward like on the day of the parade, but you will be helping to prepare all of the essentials for that big day.

People are needed for a variety of jobs and are called upon once a month or once every few months to help out. The Michigan Thanksgiving Day Parade

Foundation is funded solely through corporate and individual gifts now since Hudson's no longer sponsors the parade. Because of this, the budget is lean and the staff has been cut.

Mike Perry, CSD, has helped with the parade for quite a few years and is trying to round up volunteers again this year.

"Since the staff has been drastically cut, the Foundation is looking for volunteers to come help out once in a while, all through the year. They are looking for people who can help design and build new floats, paint, clean costumes and just generally organize."

Presently the Foundation has 20 floats, 250 heads and some 500-600 costumes, all of which have to be preened for the next parade. Two or three new floats are also on the drawing board and help is needed with those, too.

People who would like to volunteer should write their name, department and phone number along with any special skills they have and send the information to Mike Perry, C122. Perry will compile the names and send them to the Foundation people who can best decide where help is needed.